



*James Martin*

*When James Martin moved to Atlanta nine years ago to pursue a career in graphic design, he was drawn to the city's vibrant creative community. Here chefs, musicians, artists and others found space to create, and a pace of life that afforded them the opportunity to breathe. Atlanta's low cost of living gave the aspiring entrepreneur the latitude to create, fail, and try again.*

*James ultimately found himself at home in Reynoldstown, first as a renter and later a homeowner when his landlord left to pursue a career opportunity beyond Atlanta and transferred the deed to the house to James. A few years later, James was joined in his home by his wife Jen and dog Cilantro. As the Martin family's love for their home increased, so too did the demand for and value of the property that is now in one of the most sought-after neighborhoods in Atlanta. For the family of creatives, the soaring property taxes were beginning to place a tremendous strain on their ability to remain in their home.*

*In 2017, the City of Atlanta passed legislation to*

*permit Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU). As chance would have it, the Martin family would attend a Tiny House Festival a year later and see a model container home that would change their lives forever. Impressed by how "normal" the repurposed shipping containers felt, the artistic family immediately saw container houses as a creative solution to their affordability challenge.*

*In May 2018, the Martins became the owners of Atlanta's first container structure permitted for residential use. Thanks to the City's openness to innovative ways to permit and construct high-quality, affordable homes, the Martin family no longer frets the rising value of their home. Their container house now provides them an avenue to remain in the neighborhood they love and capitalize on the attractiveness of their BeltLine adjacent property. James continues to serve as a board member of the Reynoldstown Civic Improvement League while the family dog fulfills its project manager duties, overseeing the design and management of the Martin family container home.*